Vol. IX. Numb. 18

THE OBSERVATOR.

A Letter from a High-flyer, queſtioning the Story at Wolverhampton. *Another with the Particulars of that Story. A third to prove, that Papiſts join'd with High-Church in the late rebellious Tumults; and Reflexions on* Dr. Sacheverell's *Speech at the Bar of the Houſe of Lords.*

From **Wednesday**, March 15. to **Saturday**, March 18. 1709.

Country-m. HEre's a Letter to you, Maſter, from a High-flyer, which queſtions the Truth of the Story we had in our Paper of *Saturday* laſt from *Wolverhampton*.

Obſ. Read it, *Roger*.

Country-m. 'Tis thus, Maſter: 'Sir, you are de-'ſir'd in your next to give a particular Account of 'your Story from *Wolverhampton*, otherwiſe you'll 'confirm ſome Perſons that you are ſtriking at the 'Foundation of what I hope is not in Danger un-'der our preſent happy Government. Take Care 'you write Truth.

Obſ. I am very much oblig'd to the Gentleman, *Roger*, for his being ſo open and plain. He writes with the true Spirit of the *Laudean* Faction; for I remember, that when Mr. *Prynn* wrote againſt the Pope of *Rome*, Arch-biſhop *Laud*, the Patriarch of the high-flying Party, proſecuted the Cauſe in the *Star-Chamber*, as if Mr. *Prynn* had wrote againſt him. That Prelate knew the Relation betwixt his High-Church of *England*, and the Church of *Rome*, to be ſo great, that when the latter was attack'd, the former muſt needs think ſhe was in Danger. 'Twould ſeem this Gentleman is of the ſame Opinion, ſince he takes the Account I gave on *Saturday* laſt of the Practice of a Papiſt in *Wolverhampton*, to ſet the Church-men and Diſſenters there together by the Ears, to be a ſtriking at the Foundation of *Sacheverell*'s High-Church; therefore, in Requital of his Kindneſs, I will give him as particular an Account of that Story as I can, and inſert the Letter with the Gentleman's Name and Sirname that wrote it, *verbatim*, thus,

SIR. *Wolverhampton, March* 6. 1709.

'ON *Saturday* Night by the Poſt we receiv'd ſe-'veral Accounts of the great Commotions in '*London*, occaſion'd by the Inſolence of the Mob, 'and Accounts of a great deal of Damage done; 'of which we dread the Conſequence. In our 'Town we have had our Share of Heats in Par-'ties, ſome extreamly vindicating *Dr. Sacheverell*, 'and others condemning and cenſuring him for 'being too warm in his Zeal at this Time, which 'ſet us in a mighty Ferment, moſt ſober People 'dreading the Iſſue; when on *Saturday* Night a-'bout 12 a-Clock, two young Men coming thro' 'our Church-yard, caught a notorious Papiſt put-'ting up a ſeditious Paper againſt the Church 'Door; the Contents of it being in the Name of the 'Diſſenters of the Town, defying the Doctrine of 'the Church, and that a Rope and Gallows was '*Dr. Sacheverell*'s Due, and that he and all his ſul-'ſome Party would have their Deſert in leſs than a 'Month, reviling ſeveral Miniſters of the Church 'of *England* that live in Town, ſaying, that now 'the Day was come that they ſhould preach in 'Barns, and that the *Calviniſts* ſhould have the 'Church; and ſaid, you Church-men ſay you will 'pull our Meeting-houſe down, as the Mob in '*London* has; but if you come, we will warmly 'give you the Meeting. And in fine us'd ſeveral 'other deſperate Words, in order to give an Al-'larm. If Almighty God by his Providence had 'not diſcover'd this ſecond *Guy Faulx* whilſt he 'was putting his miſchievous Paper up with a 'black Pot, with Starch in his Hand; for certain-'ly, had it ſtood 'till *Sunday* Morning Light, it 'would have ſet all the Town in a Flame, People 'being like Tinder at this Time; and as 'twas 'wrote in the Name of the Diſſenters, it would 'have paſs'd for their Act and Deed; and the 'Fury of the Mob would have been preſently ſeen 'in pulling their Meeting-houſe down, and 'tis 'much fear'd their Rage would have gone a great 'Way farther, and the Papiſts in Town would 'have had, Jeſuit-like, their End. But now the '*Odium* will fall on them, and we hope will 'ſtrengthen and unite both Parties againſt them. 'The Paper was ſeiz'd, and the Incendiary, who 'is a Town's Man; but through the Negligence of 'ſome that look'd after him whilſt a Conſtable 'was call'd, he got away; but we hope in a Day 'or two to have him, that he may be puniſh'd. 'Sir, I hope by this Time the Tumults in *London* 'are at an End, that our Affairs Abroad may not 'receive any Hindrance from them. 'Tis fear'd 'with us it will obſtruct the Peace, and hinder 'the Parliament from ſettling neceſſary Funds for 'this Year's Service. Our Liberty and Religion 'have ſuch a Dependance on our Union and Peace 'at Home, that we heartily wiſh this troubleſome 'Matter over, without any more Diſturbance. I 'ſhall make this a longer Epiſtle to you, than ever 'I wrote to you about Trade. Sir, the laſt Poſt, 'we heard of an Addreſs from the Commons to 'her Majeſty, about putting the Laws in Executi-'on againſt Papiſts and Nonjurors, which I hearti-'ly wiſh may be put in Execution with us; for I 'aſſure you Popery very much abounds in our 'Town and Country, and a great many diſaf-'fected People join with them in Opinions againſt 'the preſent Eſtabliſhment; but, Sir, Juſtices of 'the Peace and Magiſtrates are certainly very re-'miſs in their Duty, and that which ſhould be e-'very Body's Buſineſs, none cares to do, and ſo 'our good Laws are of no Uſe; and, as I told you 'before, of abounding Popery with us, 'tis a Shame 'to name how bare-fac'd they are in the publick 'Exerciſe of their Religion. 'Tis as common as a-'ny Worſhip in our Town, the Church not excep-'ted, tho' ſince the Pretender was coming into '*Scotland*, they will not admit any but what they 'know to be Papiſts, but before they did not ſcru-'ple it; and I really believe within five Miles 'round our Town, there be above 20, nay, had I 'ſaid 30 *Romiſh* Prieſts, I had not ly'd; and to 'hear them drink *James* the IIId's Health, and a 'Health to *Sorrel*, is no ſtrange Thing, as many 'can teſtify that frequent their Company; and 'could or durſt they aſperſe her preſent Majeſty, 'they would, as they do the Memory of King *Wil-'liam*, to the Pit of Hell, if it were poſſible; and 'to hear ſome others to agree in the ſame ill Pra-'ctices with them, that are not of their Church, I 'confeſs has made my Heart ake many a Time, 'for fear they ſhould have Power in their Hands; 'which I hope God will prevent, and that the Par-'liament will agree well for the Safety of 'the Religion, and the Peace and Proſperity of this 'Nation.

'Thus, Sir, you may ſee that we are Sharers with 'you in the Troubles that have made ſo much

Noiſe

Noiſe in the Nation of late. I hope you are quiet in *London* by this Time, as juſt now we hear by the Poſt, and the Papiſt that was ſetting up this wicked Paper, is taken, and without very good Security he will be ſent to Jayl to anſwer it at the Aſſizes.

Your humble Servant,
Robert Shorey.

Country-m. That's a very full and plain Proof indeed, Maſter, that *Sacheverell*'s High-Church, and our *Britiſh* Papiſts, who are as malicious as any in the World, are acted by the ſame Spirit, and carry on the ſame Jacobite and *French* Intereſt, or, as K. *William* happily expreſs'd it by a few Words in his laſt Speech, *are for a Popiſh Prince, and a* French *Government.* But here's another Letter for you, Maſter, containing farther Proofs of it. While *Dr. Sacheverell*'s Mob huzza'd him from *Weſtminſter-hall*, ſome of them ask'd a Gentleman well known to be of the Church of *England*, as he ſtood in the Door of a Shop at *Charing-Croſs*, whether he was for the Doctor? The Gentleman not willing to anſwer, went into the Shop; another Gentleman paſſing by, heard one whom he knew to be a Papiſt, and a Coffee-man near *Wild-ſtreet*, bid the Boys go into the Shop, and knock the Gentleman down, telling them *he was a Whig.* The other Gentleman ask'd him how he durſt bid the Boys do ſo? To which the Fellow anſwer'd, that *he was for High-Church againſt Low-Church.* Upon this the Gentleman ſeeing ſome others that he knew to be Papiſts among the Rabble, he endeavour'd to ſeize the Coffee-man and them, but they made their Eſcape thro' the Crow'd. I have made Enquiry, Maſter, if there was any Popiſh Coffee-man about *Wild-ſtreet*, and am inform'd there was, and that his Houſe was frequented by *Iriſh* and other Papiſts, Jacobites, and High-flyers; but whether the late Proclamation has frighten'd them or not, the People can't tell, only they don't ſee them appear in ſuch Numbers, and ſo boldly as formerly. I think it a great Omiſſion in that Gentleman, Maſter, who knew the Fellow, that he did not take Care to have him and the other Papiſts ſeiz'd afterwards, tho' I am perſwaded it was not for Want of Zeal, ſince he told the Mob *he was ſorry to ſee them led on by Papiſts, ſworn Enemies to the Church of* England. The Letter adds, that the Faction in their Night-Clubs with their High-Church Prieſts, inſtead of *drinking to the Church of* Englaud *as by Law eſtabliſh'd,* drink now *to the Church according to* Sacheverell. But I paſs over the reſt of this Letter 'till another Opportunity, and muſt deſire your Opinion of *Dr. Sacheverell*'s Speech, publiſh'd t'other Day; for the Faction hug it mightily, and ſay, that an Angel from Heaven could not have ſpoke beter.

Obſ. My Opinion of it is, in a few Words, *Roger*, that if the Doctor's Speech be true, every Man in *England* has loſt the Property of his native Tongue, and not one of 'em underſtands a Word of it but the Doctor himſelf; ſo that hence-forward we muſt call black white, and Bleſſing Curſing. 'Tis one of the moſt audacious Arraignments of the Senſe, Juſtice, and Wiſdom of Queen, Lords, and Commons, and by Conſequence of the whole Nation, that ever was publiſh'd. But what is more, according to him, it impeaches the Senſe and Underſtanding of his own Party, whom he has abſolutely dropt, and condemn'd by it; for 'tis plain by their Practice, that they underſtood his Sermons as the Commons did, *viz.* to be deſign'd as Libels upon the Queen's Government and Adminiſtration, her Miniſters, the Revolution, the Proteſtant Succeſſion, the Toleration, and an Incitement to Rebellion; why elſe ſhould they have role in Tumults againſt her Majeſty's Government, threaten'd to attack her chief Miniſters of State, actually pull'd down and burnt Meeting-houſes threaten'd the like to the Churches of our moderate Clergy, and to the Bank of *England*, inſulted Lords Spiritual and Temporal, with the Managers, and other Members of the Houſe of Commons in the Streets? Why ſhould Papiſts and Nonjurors in Town and Country have concurr'd with and led on his Rabble, had they thought the Doctor ſuch a declar'd Champion of the Government, Adminiſtration, Succeſſion, and Indulgence? Certainly the Man is ſo far bewitch'd, as to think he ſtands by himſelf; but perhaps he may find, to his Coſt and Mortification, that ſeveral of his Friends will fall with him; and ſince he was not ſo kind as to publiſh a Gloſſary with his Sermons, that all the World might have underſtood his Meaning to be quite contrary to what he ſaid, he ought to make the Government and the Nation an Amends for the Charge they have been at in ſuppreſſing his Rebellion, and to expiate the Blood and Loſs of his own Party, for bringing them into ſuch a wretched Condition, by ſpeaking to them in a Language they did not underſtand.

Advertiſements.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ Reflexions on Dr. Sacheverell's Anſwer to the Articles of Impeachment exhibited againſt him by the Honourable Houſe of Commons, Paragraph by Paragraph. Which contains an Anſwer to moſt, if not all of what he ſaid in his Speech at the Bar of the Houſe of Lords in Weſtminſter-hall, March 7. 1709-10. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 1 s.

This Day is publiſh'd,

☞ A Weekly Paper, entitl'd, Athenian News, or Dunton's Oracle, to be continu'd every Tueſday and Saturday in 3000 diſtinct Poſts. The Poſts already publiſh'd are, 1. Dunton's Poſt, or his dying Farewel to this Life and World. 2. The Mob-Poſt, or the ſecret Hiſtory of Sacheverelism, with a ſurprizing Anagram on Dr. Sacheverell's Name. 3. The Whipping-Poſt, or a War with Vice and Error, but more eſpecially with ſuch Authors that are dull, ignorant, falſe, and Numb. 4. The Lying-Poſt, or Fictions prov'd Realities, dy Way of Paradox; the Paradoxes in this Poſt are to prove they feel no Pain that have the Stone, Gout, or Chobick, or any other torturing Diſeaſe. 2. That the Britiſh Apollo's pretended Satyr on Dunton's Oracle was a real Panegyrick upon it, with Reaſons ſhewing the Neceſſity and Juſtice of re-anſwering all the Queſtions he has yet publiſh'd. This is farther to give Notice, that the Perſon of Quality who promiſes to give away 500 of Dunton's dying Farewel to Honour, Riches, and Pleaſure, may ſee the Manuſcript Copy of it about two Weeks hence at the Sword in New-ſtreet; and I deſign my ſelf to give gratis 1000 of the Preaching-Poſt to the moſt eminent Clergy in the Queen's Dominions, being willing Dunton's Oracle ſhould live or die by the Judgment of Men of the brighteſt Parts. And that the young Ladies and facetious Gentlemen may not think I forget 'em, I ſhall ſpeedily publiſh my Courting-Poſt, or News for the Ladies. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-hall.

Juſt publiſh'd,

☞ The Virgin unmaſk'd, in ten Female Dialogues betwixt an elderly Maiden Lady, and her Niece, on ſeveral diverting Diſcourſes, on Love, Marriage, Memoirs, and Morals, &c. of the preſent Times. The ſecond Edition, corrected. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row.

☞ TINCTURA CÆLESTIS. The celebrated Medicine of the Age for many Years paſt, as an effectual Remedy in moſt chronical Diſeaſes, to which moſt part of this Nation can give ample Teſtimony, but moſt particularly in the Stone of the Reins and Bladder, (in which its Virtues have been lately ſignaliz'd) in the Gout, Rheumatiſm, and all Joint Pains, Dropſy, Scurvy, Obſtruction of the Stomach, Liver, Spleen, Meſentary, and other Bowels, whereby Concoction is hinder'd, and infinite Diſeaſes are propagated, relieving alſo ſuch as are afflicted with Vapours, and Fumes ariſing to the Head, which being fix'd thereto, cauſe Headach, Dizzineſs, Epilepſy, Appoplexy, and other dangerous and deplorable Diſeaſes. It is prepar'd by the Author, at the Golden Head in Blue Ball Court in Saliſbury-Square in Fleet-ſtreet; and ſold at 1 s. and 2 s. 6 d. the Bottles, and Directions how to uſe it.

☞ Gentlemen, who have any Thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row, for the Obſervator, Poſt pay'd. Where Advertiſements are taken in.

☞ Eliz. Tutchin, Widow of the late John Tutchin, who formerly kept a Boarding-ſchool at Newington-Green and Shacklewell, now keeps a School near the Nags-head at Highgate; where is good Accommodation for Lodgers.

LONDON, Printed: And ſold by *B. Bragge* in *Pater-Noſter-Row.* 1709.